



## **THE VOICE AND VISION FOR VAPT**



**SEPTEMBER 2003**

**Editor: Bill Carr**

### **A Message from Our President, Barbara Goodman...**

Welcome to the 2003-2004 school year and welcome new VAPT members. As we contemplate where the summer break went, hopefully you have had time to reflect on the past year.

As your VAPT president, I had one major goal last year – to develop a budget for the organization, a project that started about five years earlier. Thanks to the endeavors of Frank Labrecque and his committee, we will begin the year with greater fiscal insight for the growing responsibilities of our organization. The Board will work to refine the budget process in the coming year.

Other goals for last year included developing a computerized method for tracking VAPT business, and continuing with the goals of the past president, John Hazelette, such as setting a registration fee that would pay for some of the expenses VAPT expected to incur:

1. Gail Turner, registration coordinator, customized the registration process for tracking funds, reporting deposits, and providing information to Martha Walker for nametags.
2. Gail Patterson, vendor coordinator, customized the vendor registration process for tracking funds, reporting deposits, and provided information for nametags.
3. VAPT membership was available as part of the registration process and nametags had "VAPT MEMBER" printed in red on each name badge. The badge becomes the membership card.

Based on the comments I have received, these efforts are major improvements for the organization.

For the upcoming year, one goal is to develop and distribute "Guidelines for Charter Bus Service." Harold Grimes and James Lash have agreed to coordinate this effort and DOE will provide technical assistance, as needed.

Equally as important, will be the coordinated effort of a conference committee to plan and implement everything associated with the annual conference. As the conference grows, VAPT will look at ways to meet the needs of both operations and maintenance.

Other goals will include improvements for tracking and reporting to the treasurer; “fine-tuning” the VAPT member database; development of a database for hotel selections; and training for technicians.

Members’ input is very important. As conference attendance grows, we need to hear from you about how to plan the educational workshops that are so important for staff development. Also, as the financial assets grow, we need to learn about the important projects that VAPT should undertake.

As your schedule and time permit, attend your regularly scheduled regional directors’ meetings – this is an opportunity to learn not only what is going on around the state, but in your own region. Get to know your neighbors. VAPT regional directors are listed in another part of the newsletter. Let your regional director know your ideas. If you have a concern, please pass it on.

In the meantime, have a healthy, enjoyable, and safe 2003-2004 school year and again – **“Welcome back!”**

### **REGION 1 DIRECTORS’ MEETING**



**Submitted by: Harold Grimes, Henrico County**

The Area Region I Transportation Directors Meeting was hosted by Powhatan County Public Schools on May 20th. Ernie Cundiff thanked everyone for attending and then introduced Gary Blair, Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Blair welcomed everyone and thanked all school bus drivers and supervisors for their dedication to the students and their excellent safety record. Mr. Blair also praised Ernie and his entire staff for the great job they do.

June Eanes, VDOE, gave an update on the status of school bus regulations and specifications. Don Unmussig continues with fleet assessments and Brian Green scheduled trainer re-certification classes and new trainer classes for the summer. The recent information received concerning IC front-engine (and possibly rear-engine) school buses and the steering column boot covering were discussed. Pictures and emails related to this were circulated.

Harold Grimes, June Eanes, Mitzi Crosier and Dennis Lewis gave updates from VAPT committees and the upcoming conference in Roanoke.

We discussed policies any location had regarding drivers who were involved in accidents and/or who receive tickets and found guilty.



### **Who is Mitzi Crosier?**

Mitzi Crosier and Paul Crosier were married in Hanover Courthouse in Hanover County on May 17, 2003. Mitzi is the Director of Transportation for the Hanover County Schools and Paul is the Shop Supervisor for Pulaski County Schools. This is the second marriage for both. Mitzi has a 21-year-old daughter and Paul has twin girls age 11 and boys ages 13 and 16. The newlyweds have built a home in Radford and will continue the “long distance relationship” – they have had for three years. Mitzi’s new e-mail address is [mcrosier@hanover.k12.va.us](mailto:mcrosier@hanover.k12.va.us)

### **MEET OUR TREASURER, WILLIE SMITH**



Willie was born on September 5<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland Ohio. He enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) at the age of 19 and retired as a USAF Captain on December 31, 1991. He assumed the Director of Transportation position for Albemarle County Public Schools on November 1, 1991. Family is very important to Willie; his wife, Patricia Ann, son Shawn and daughter Dion. He became a grandparent October 2001. Willie graduated from Embry-Riddle University with a Masters in Aeronautical Science and is interested in aviation history. He enjoys reading and working in pupil transportation as it gives him an opportunity to ensure children are safely and expeditiously transported.

## **REGION 5 DIRECTORS' MEETING**



### **Submitted by Barbara Scott, Campbell County**

Barbara Douglas, Albemarle County Transportation, presented the Transportation Operations Manager (TOM). TOM, a reporting system that can automatically assign drivers to field trips also has the capability to determine the trips a driver is able to accept. If a driver declines a field trip with an unacceptable reason three times the driver's name is removed from the "Drivers Available for Field Trip List" for the duration of the school year. The Field Trip Manual addresses the policy that a driver's assigned routes have priority over field trips and the policy is strictly enforced. Drivers are not permitted to leave the field trip destination until the class is ready to leave or unless otherwise instructed. The purchase price of the program is \$3,500 with a \$350 annual maintenance expense. The company and technician who operate the program are located in California.

June Eanes, VDOE, provided the revised school bus regulations approved by the Board and should be ready by July 1, 2003. Revised specifications will go to the Board sometime in May and hopefully will be ready by July, as well. VDOE is hoping to obtain a grant for the Special Education Symposium, School Bus Safety Campaign, and for an additional person to assist with training. The "Train the Trainer" course is to be held in Wytheville and Chesterfield during the months of July and August for four days each month depending on 12-15 people signing up for the classes. Fleet Assessments will be conducted by VDOE throughout the state by the end of this December. Re-certification classes consist of 2 days beginning with classroom training on the first day and ending on the second day with Behind-the-Wheel training. The Virginia Department of Pupil Transportation Services located in Richmond is relocating on the 24<sup>th</sup> floor of the VDOE building. Note the new telephone number is 225-2037.

The next scheduled meeting for Region 5 will be held at the Albemarle County facility on October 10, 2003 at 10:00 AM and lunch will be available for \$10.

**What's New on the VAPT Web Site?**

**[www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/VAPT/](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/VAPT/)**

***-Check it out-***

## POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

**(Submitted by Sharon Utley, Committee Chairperson)**

**Division I:** Petersburg City – Isaiah Friend  
Westmoreland County – Hanah Bartmess  
Westmoreland County – Emmanuel Valdez

**Division II:** Petersburg City - Jaquan Brown  
Petersburg City - Markos Johnson  
Mecklenburg County – Brielle Goodreau

**Division III:** Nottoway County – Holly Brown  
Nottoway County – James Johnson  
Carroll County – Lauren Dedmone

**Division IV:** Petersburg City – Gabriel Burnette  
Petersburg City – Kevin Coleman  
Loudoun County – Jeremy Thompson

## **WINNERS of the Virginia ANNUAL SCHOOL BUS ROAD-E-O**



**Submitted by Sharon Utley, Chesterfield County**

**FIRST:** Roanoke City – Karen Schoonover (center)  
**SECOND:** Montgomery County – Russell Altizer (right)  
**THIRD:** Roanoke County – Cliff Wills (left)



## North Carolina School Bus History!



Does this look like the school bus you rode? It's a 1964 "snub nose," as they were called back in those days. Yet, the vast majority of the school buses in those days were 48-passenger on a conventional body. High school students drove 95% of the school buses and the buses were painted orange rather than yellow. Perhaps some of our friends in transportation remember these school buses and may have driven one. Notice the stop arm. The red traffic warning light was located in the middle front of the bus above the windshield the middle rear of the bus above the Emergency Door. The red lights were activated **and** stop arm extended 300 feet before reaching a pupil stop. The word **CAUTION** was boldly displayed on the center rear of the school bus. It appears North Carolina was ahead of time with the transit type bus and stop arm sign.

### 2003-2004 VAPT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

#### Officers:

President – Dr. Barbara Goodman, Chesterfield County  
Vice President – Velera Gammons, Henry County  
Secretary – June Eanes, VDOE  
Treasurer – Willie Smith, Albemarle County

#### Directors:

Region 1 – James Tucker, Richmond City 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Region 2 - Steve Washington, Hampton City, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Region 3 – Kermit Shaffer, Spotsylvania County, 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Region 4 – James Day, Manassas City, 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Region 5 – Barbara Scott, Campbell County, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Region 6 – Rebecca Mummau, Montgomery County, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Region 7 – Michael Puckett, Russell County, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Region 8 – Ralph Moore, Charlotte County, 1<sup>st</sup> year

#### Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Audit – Mitzi Crosier, Hanover County  
Conference – Dr. Barbara Goodman, Chesterfield County  
Constitution & Bylaws – Tim Parker, Fairfax County  
Legislative – Harold Grimes, Henrico County

Membership – Ralph Moore, Charlotte County  
Nominating – Dennis Lewis, Chesterfield County  
Resolution – Michael Ashby, King William County  
Scholarship – David Pace, Virginia Beach City

**Special Committee Chairpersons:**

Poster Contest – Margaret Rayner, Hopewell City  
Position Papers – Michael Ashby, King William County  
Newsletter – Bill Carr, Virginia Beach City  
Web Site – Tim Parker, Fairfax County  
Historian – Dwight Elam, Mecklenburg County  
Charter Bus Service – Harold Grimes, Henrico County & James Lash, York County  
Budget Preparation – Frank Labrecque, Newport News City

**MEET OUR PRESIDENT, BARBARA GOODMAN**



Barbara was born in Richmond and raised in Kilmarnock, Virginia. Her mother (84), brother, and sister reside in Richmond and another brother in Indianapolis. After finishing college at VCU, Barbara taught in middle and high schools as well as at Longwood College and Texas A&M. She has coached basketball, softball, gymnastics, sponsored cheerleaders, and “piddled” with all other activities as well as serving as an official for field hockey and softball for the Virginia High School League. Barbara left teaching to enter the field of Pupil Transportation where she felt she could help children in a different capacity and could help more people in serving the state she loves so much. She began her career in pupil transportation in the Virginia Department of Education as an assistant and later as the State Director of Pupil Transportation. She has served as a past president of the National Association of State Directors for Pupil Transportation Services and for the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Association. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Pupil Transportation for the Chesterfield County Public Schools and the current President of the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation. Barbara likes to relax with a good book or watch the old black and white movies of the 30’s and 40’s and enjoys gardening, swimming, and traveling.

## THE RECIPE OF THE CLYDE W. MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP



Greensville County – Shavon Seaborne  
Surry County – Ken Seals

## A LITTLE BIT OF VAPT HISTORY



The concept for the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) was born during the 1976 meeting of the Virginia Association for Business Officials in Virginia Beach. Pupil transportation personnel attending this meeting felt the need for an association that focused on the problems associated with pupil transportation. Nathan Young (Henrico County) and Evangeline Fox (York County) sent out notices in July of 1976 announcing the initial organizational meeting.

On October 25, 1976 at the Ramada Inn at the Richmond Airport, approximately 60 transportation supervisors from across the state as well as several distributors of school bus



bodies met. As a result of the interest shown by those present, it was decided to form an association as recommended by the planning committee.

Mr. Robert Marriott was selected to serve as chairman of a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers and directors to serve during 1977. The following names were placed in nomination and elected by a majority vote of those attending:

President	Nathan H. Young	Henrico County
President Elect	Evangeline Fox	York County
Secretary	Donald G. Travitz	Chesapeake City
Treasurer	Roy Hopkins	Louisa County
Directors	Abraham Bushrod, Jr.	King George County
	Jack H. Jones	Richmond City
	Bradford Scherr	Suffolk City
	Robert Wilson	Washington County

**Experts state that safe driving is a combination of the following elements:**

- Attitude:** Courtesy and consideration toward other users of the highway is the single most important driving attitude you can develop.
- Alertness:** It is the habit of keeping your attention focused on the driving job and free of distractions.
- Foresight:** Being able to size up traffic situations as far ahead as possible and prepare for them.
- Good Judgement:** It not only means obeying the rules of the road, but also recognizing that there are choices in any traffic situation.
- Knowledge:** Knowing what to do and when to do it. Your knowledge should include recognition of the hazards of driving, and how to protect yourself from them.
- Experience:** To the beginning driver – practice builds confidence, so take your time. The experienced driver – overconfidence and bad driving habits may have developed over many years.

**The egotist always hurts the one he loves – himself.    Bernice Peters**

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**(Submitted by June Eanes, DOE. She is in the middle.)**

The following individuals have been asked to serve on this committee for the 2003-2004 year. If you have issues or concerns that you wish this committee to discuss, please notify the individual in your region.

<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>TECHNICAL</u></b>	<b><u>SPECIFICATION</u></b>
1	Betty Thurston	Harold Grimes
2	David Pace	Michael Waltrip
3	Reuben Bryant	Kermit Shaffer
4	Tim Parker	James O'Rourke
5	Willie Smith	Warren Carter
6	Bobby Lovelace	Velera Gammons
7	Mike Puckett	Tom Williams
8	James Wagner	Ralph Moore

## **33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL "SCHOOL BUS DRIVER INTERNATIONAL SAFETY COMPETITION**

**(Submitted by Rebecca Mummau)**



Russell Altizer, **champion** driver from Montgomery County, has won their local competition for the last ten years. He won first place in our state competition for 2000 and participated in the National Rodeo held in San Francisco in 2001. He won the state rodeo again and went to Philadelphia for the National Rodeo in 2002. Russell also won our second place trophy in 2002 and went to Chicago for the National Rodeo in 2003. This year he took second place honors in our state rodeo and this time traveled to New York City for the National

Rodeo where he came in 4<sup>th</sup> in the national conventional class! Russell is beginning his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Montgomery County school bus driver! Also, Russell is a volunteer member and driver for the rescue squad in his area. Montgomery County as well as all of Virginia is very proud of Russell's accomplishments!

### **MEET REBECCA MUMMAU, Montgomery County, a Region 6 Director**



Rebecca was born in Culpeper County and moved to Fauquier County when she was in the third grade. She eventually attended middle and high school in Fairfax County from the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades where her parents taught school. After college in August 1974 she started working in the Transportation Office in Culpeper County as an assistant supervisor. She was promoted to supervisor in 1984. Then she moved to Roanoke City and worked as the assistant director in 1987 and continued in that capacity until January 1999. Rebecca began in her present position as director of Transportation in Montgomery County on February 1, 1999. She remembers that day well as it was snow day!! The snow here causes some problems for her, but she said the people are wonderful and she enjoys the view of the mountains very much.

## **WHAT IS VAPT DOING?**

- Sponsors the Clyde W. Morris Scholarship. Two eligible Virginia students each receive \$1,000 scholarships – chairperson David Pace, Virginia Beach
- Sponsors the annual Hall of Fame award. Eligible pupil transportation persons are nominated and selected for this award – chairperson Fred Valentine, Hanover County (retired)
- Sponsors the annual School Bus Safety Poster Contest. Twelve eligible Virginia students receive savings bonds for submitting winning posters. Winning posters are depicted in a calendar that is produced and distributed with assistance from VDOE. Chairperson, Margaret Rayner, Hopewell.
- Sponsors the annual School Bus Rodeo for both conventional and transit categories and pays the registration fee for up to two place winners to attend the international contest – chairperson Sharon Utley, Chesterfield County
- Sponsors, with assistance from DOE, the Annual Pupil Transportation Conference – individual chair people: Program, John Hazelette, Norfolk, and Velera Gammons, Henry County; Technicians, Mitch Fenton and James Hinson, Norfolk; Sponsors,

Warren Carter, Albemarle County; Registration, Gail Turner, Virginia Beach, Gail Patterson, Hanover County; Name Tags, Martha Walker, Chesterfield County; Exhibits, Fred Valentine and Buster Bynum, retired; Golf, George Springer, Lynchburg, Door Prizes, Fred Rankin, Culpeper County

- Maintains and updates the Emergency Contact List – chairperson Tim Parker, Fairfax County
- Collaborates with VDOE to seek Governor's Proclamation recognizing the third week in October as Virginia School Bus Safety Week
- Publishes the "Voice and Vision of VAPT," the periodic newsletter that keeps members informed – chairperson Bill Carr, Virginia Beach
- Maintains the VAPT Web site, made possible through technical assistance from DOE. Chairman, Tim Parker and Webmaster, Ernie Green, Fairfax County
- Monitors legislation during the annual general assembly and provides resolutions or testimony as need – chairmen Harold Grimes, Henrico County and Michael Ashby King William County
- Maintains a history of the VAPT organization through narrative and pictures – chairperson Dwight Elam, Mecklenburg County
- Maintains a membership roster and ensures everyone understands the mission of the organization – chairperson Ralph "Red" Moore, Charlotte County

If anyone is interested in serving VAPT in any capacity, please contact a Board member.

The president acknowledges the time and effort given by countless individuals throughout the Commonwealth, who go about the various VAPT tasks with little or no recognition. I know who you are and I greatly appreciate you.

Also, we acknowledge the generous support from our vendors including Sonny Merryman, Inc.; Kingmor, Inc; Virginia Truck; and Western Branch Diesel. Their support helped many activities "get off the ground," while sustaining others. Thank you!

## **CHANGES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

Brian Green, Transportation Specialist with VDOE, has accepted the position of Principal of a new Middle School in Buckingham County. Best wishes to Brian as he climbs back over the fence into the educational arena.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Bobby L. Camper, former Director of Transportation for Botetourt County Schools, died recently at the age of 74. His death followed a determined battle with prostrate cancer. Prior to his career in administration, Bobby distinguished himself as a high school coach. The nickname of "coach" followed him throughout his administrative career also. Camper coached Troutville High School to the Virginia High School League Group III championship in 1958-59, the only boys' basketball title won by a Botetourt County school. Camper also won four state track and field state titles as a coach - two at Troutville HS and two at Lord Botetourt HS. A colleague was quoted as saying that "Bobby exemplified the highest degree of class in his coaching and his life. He was just a true gentleman. His trademark as a coach was a red towel. He didn't "throw it" like many. He was very much a reserved coach in control of his emotions." These same qualities distinguished him as an administrator as well. He earned a Masters Degree from the University of Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Patsy, and a son, Brian.